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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. FLORES (Uruguay)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 140: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (continued)

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 140: MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (continued) (A/C.6/48/L.21)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had before it a draft decision submitted by the Chair (A/C.6/48/L.21) and that, in the course of the informal consultations which had led to the text of the draft decision, it had been agreed that she would read out the following text:

> "The decision to place this item on the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session has been taken in the light of the request for views of States contained therein. It is a procedural decision. While reaffirming its condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, as contained in its resolution 46/51, the General Assembly calls for the strengthening of cooperation among States in combating all terrorist activities."

2. It was her understanding that, should the Sixth Committee adopt draft decision A/C.6/48/L.21, its report to the General Assembly would reproduce the text she had just read out. She invited those members of the Committee wishing to do so to explain their position on the draft decision.

3. Mr. GALVEZ (Peru) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on draft decision A/C.6/48/L.21, which deferred consideration of the question until 1994, but that it would have preferred the adoption by consensus of a resolution unequivocally condemning terrorism.

4. It was his delegation's hope that, during the additional time-period, a text could be arrived at that more accurately reflected the new international situation and took into account the new concepts proposed by Peru, aimed at condemning terrorist activities as human rights violations but without establishing a linkage between terrorism and drug trafficking as had been done in paragraph 17 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

5. His delegation reaffirmed the need for all States to continue to fulfil their international obligations to prevent the organization, instigation, and preparation of such acts in their territories and to take strong measures against the justification of terrorism and international action by criminal organizations which resorted to it.

6. Mr. MUBARAK (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), supported by Mr. ABOULMAGD (Egypt), said that paragraph 2 of the Arabic text of the draft decision did not correspond to the English text and suggested that he might provide the Secretariat with a revised Arabic version of that paragraph.

7. The CHAIRMAN said she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft decision A/C.6/48/L.21 without a vote.

8. It was so decided.

9. Mr. HAMAI (Algeria), explaining his delegation's position on the draft decision the Committee had just adopted, said that, ever since the question of international terrorism had begun to be considered, Algeria had advocated, and together with many other delegations worked to ensure, the adoption of a resolution which would break with the repetitive, sterile content of past resolutions but would also reaffirm the unanimous and unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and orient efforts in that regard towards the taking of practical measures designed to eliminate acts of terrorism. While the shackles of the past and the after-effects of an unproductive, ideological perception of the issue had prevented that objective from being attained in 1993, his delegation remained convinced that the Committee's adoption of decision A/C.6/48/L.21 was a first positive step towards future measures that would be fruitful, effective and action-oriented.

10. In that same vein, the decision the Committee had just adopted meant that it would have to take a decision at the beginning of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the establishment of a working group to consider, in the light of the views submitted by States in response to the request contained in the decision, practical measures for the elimination of acts of terrorism, including the elaboration of an international convention. His delegation therefore requested the Secretariat to make all arrangements and take all practical and organizational preparatory measures which might facilitate the establishment and functioning of such a working group when the time came.

11. Mr. HALLAK (Syrian Arab Republic) said that while his delegation had not opposed the adoption by consensus of draft decision A/C.6/48/L.21, it none the less would have preferred to see the Committee adopt a resolution unequivocally condemning all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal acts which not only took the lives of many innocent people but also violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

12. Cooperation among States under international law must be strengthened with a view to taking the necessary measures to prevent and combat acts of terrorism and to eliminate the causes of terrorism on the basis of internationally recognized criteria which distinguished clearly between terrorism and legitimate national struggles against foreign occupation, a form of struggle which should be supported and encouraged.

13. His delegation supported the convening, on the basis of General Assembly resolutions 42/159 and 46/51, of an international conference to define terrorism and distinguish it from the struggle of peoples for self-determination.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 140.

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

15. After an exchange of courtesies in which Mr. HAMAI (Algeria), on behalf of the Group of African States, Mr. YAMAMOTO (Japan), on behalf of the Group of Asian States, Mr. MALESKI (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, Mr. CAMACHO (Ecuador), on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Mr. VAZ DAS NEVES (Portugal), on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America), as representative of the host country and Mr. FLEISCHHAUER (The Legal Counsel) participated, the CHAIRMAN declared that the Sixth Committee had completed its work for the forty-eighth session.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.